

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



270252

Date: Monday, April 10, 2006
From: Mike Ribordy and Steve Faryan, OSC

To: Bill Bolen, Superfund

Subject: Initial and Final POLREP
 Gor Drum Site
 6147 West 65th Street, Bedford Park, IL
 Latitude: 41.7739
 Longitude: -87.7758

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	B5CK
Reporting Period:	9/15/2005 - 11/5/2005	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	8/30/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/30/2005	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Completion Date:	12/15/2005	NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The Gor Drum site consists of a parking lot located at 6158 West 65th Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois and a dilapidated building located at 6147 West 65th Street, Bedford Park, Illinois. The Site is in an industrial, commercial, and residential area at the intersection of West 65th Street and South Melvina Avenue. The building was operated by VJ Compounding Corporation, d/b/a th L. Carlton Mertz Company. Its president is Vishnu Gor. The company is a private label compounding operation that formulated and mixed primarily cleaning compounds. In addition, another of Mr. Gor's companies, Ravi Corporation, owns the lot across West 65th Street which is a fenced parking area currently holding fourteen semi-trailers. This lot was used by employees of L. Carlton Mertz to park their cars.

On or around July 8, 2005, the Bedford Park Fire Department discovered fourteen semi-trailer trucks parked at the Site. Upon closer observation, it was discovered that one of the trailers was leaking an unknown substance. The Bedford Park Fire Department contacted the City of Chicago since the trailers were located within the Chicago City limits.

On July 13th, the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch (ERB) responded to a request from the City of Chicago Department of the Environment (DOE), regarding a parking lot with fourteen semi-trailers filled with drums and totes of unknown chemicals, some of which were leaking. Upon arrival at the Site, U.S. EPA ERB met with Chicago DOE, U.S. EPA CID, and IEPA. At least nine of the fourteen trailers appeared to be full of 55-gallon drums and totes. U.S. EPA and IEPA sampled some of the drums nearest to the trailer doors with pH paper. IEPA documented the sampling in his memorandum dated July 14, 2005, which indicates that two 55-gallon drums were sampled and screened with pH paper and found to have a pH of 14 and their contents were leaking their contents. Based on this limited sampling, information obtained from the owners of the trailers, and by identification of visible drum labels, and information regarding

prior business operations at the Site, it was determined that some of the drums and totes contained acids, caustics, and oxidizers.

Many of the drums inside the trailers were in poor condition with material present on the outside of the drums. The leaking containers appeared to be perfume agents used in the manufacturing of industrial cleansers. Sorbent pads and oil dry were used to contain the perfume agents. The owners of the parking lot indicated that contents of the trailers were previously owned by them, but had been sold to Farhut, Inc. However, Farhut, Inc., through its president, Mohammed Gheith, has denied ownership. Because no parties claimed ownership, the U.S. EPA considers the drums and totes in the trailers and in the dilapidated building to be abandoned.

On July 14th, U.S. EPA gave verbal notice to representatives of Ravi and VJ Compounding Corporations, the owners and operators on the Site to address the drums and totes; the representatives agreed to secure the Site and address the drums.

On July 26, 2005, U.S. EPA met with Neil Gor, who represents the owner of the Site, Ravi Corporation. U.S. EPA observed that a chain-link fence had been constructed around the fourteen trailers with a locked gate and a security guard present in the area. One of the trailers was still leaking material to the ground. U.S. EPA requested a container be placed under the trailer to contain the spilled material. U.S. EPA also inspected the warehouse immediately south of the parking area. Mr. Gor was interested in using the old warehouse to stage and sample the drums in the trailers. U.S. EPA observed over 500 55-gallon drums and a number of totes throughout the dilapidated building. Many of the drums were in poor condition with material present on the outside of the drums. Some of the drums were leaking their contents onto the floor. Many of the drums had labels indicating they contained acids, caustics, and oxidizers. Laboratory chemicals from the on-site laboratory were being stored in the building. Numerous pallets were observed stacked with bags of raw materials including sodium hydroxide. Many of these bags were ripped open, releasing their contents. The totes reportedly contain waste water from previous Site operations.

On August 10, 2005, U.S. EPA met Neil Gor again at the old warehouse location and observed a slight haze in the warehouse most likely due to fumes from acid reacting with rain water. The acid was leaking from a nitric acid tank. A strong acid odor was noted in the vicinity of this acid tank in the southeast corner of the building. The roof of the building was found to be leaking in several places. A number of windows were broken both at street level and near the roof line. The broken windows could allow access into the building.

Current Activities

Beginning in September 2005, the LC Mertz/Gor Drum contractor began staging and inventorying drums and containers located in both the warehouse and in trailers in the parking area. Trailers in the parking area were moved to the warehouse loading dock and the contents of the trailers were off loaded and staged in the warehouse.

There were 876 containers and 13 totes found in the warehouse. Most were full 55-gallon drums. An additional 5 55-gallon drums were found within the warehouse under a covered railroad spur. There were 715 containers removed from the trailers and staged in the warehouse. Most of these containers were also 55-gallon drums with several totes.

All drums, containers, and tanks were given an identification number, sampled and hazard characterized (haz-cat). Representative samples of the identified waste streams were sent to a

laboratory for analysis. Materials were grouped into their respective waste streams for disposal.

Flammable liquids, corrosive liquids, hydrofluoric acid, fluorosilicic acid waste streams, nitric acid, ferric chloride solutions were shipped to Clean Harbors Services in Chicago for disposal. Compressed gas was sent to Clean Harbors in La Porte, Texas. Flammable liquids (Ethylbenzene, xylene), resin solution, waste flammable liquid (alcohol, glycol ether), waste oxidizing solids, mercury, cresols, waste toxic liquids (D004, D007, D008, D022, D039), hydrofluoric acid, and waste corrosive liquids were sent to Clean Harbors in Reidsville, North Carolina. Waste liquid soap and waste sodium hydroxide were shipped to Southern Illinois Regional Landfill in Desoto, Illinois for disposal. Waste oxidizing solids, waste flammable liquids (methanol and petroleum distillates), waste corrosive liquids, ferric chloride solution, hypochlorite solutions, ethanolamine solutions, and waste calcium nitrate were sent to Spring Grove Resource Recovery in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sodium hydroxide was sent to Beaver Oil in Hodgkins, Illinois. Reusable RCRA empty drums were shipped to the Inter Rail Systems recycling facility in Cairo, Illinois. All other RCRA empty drums, totes and jugs were cut/crushed.

In addition, the floor drainage pit was pumped and rinsed, several tanks on-site were emptied and rinsed. Contents of the floor pit and tanks were characterized and appropriately disposed of off-site. The floor and machinery were cleaned. The contractor demobilized from the site on December 15, 2005.

Oversight of the work was conducted by U.S. EPA and the Bedford Park Police Department.

Next Steps

Responsible party is required to submit Removal Action Completion Report.

Key Issues

The RP's contractor has not been paid for all of the work conducted. U.S. EPA has not been able to obtain a final Removal Action Completion Report documenting that all required work has been adequately completed.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

www.epaosc.net/gordrum